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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM NO. 129

SUBJECT: Foreign Reaction to the US Position on the Stalin "Peace Interview"

1. Reactions to date are almost entirely confined to official statements and to radio and press comments. The latter comments, except when officially directed, are prejudiced by the political positions of the media in which they appear. Significant analyses of public opinion are not yet available.

2. Appendices A-F provide on a regional basis

- a. Official positions where known
- b. Press and radio reactions as available
- c. Estimates of probable public response made on general grounds.

3. It is considered that

a. Official responses in non-Communist Western States tend to support the present US position of asking for "deeds not words."

b. Press and radio comments follow either the official position or support the "peace offensive" itself. At the present moment they provide little evidence.

c. Public opinion and popular judgment are motivated, often unrealistically, by a widespread desire for peace and personal security, and by a groping for stability. These motivations are subject to manipulation and exploitation. Conversely, they cannot be entirely frustrated if public opinion and popular judgments are to be enlisted in firm support of a US line. Evidence is not yet in hand to indicate the extent to which these motivations have been touched by the present "peace offensive." Such evidence should be requested and considered as it becomes available.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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